



# Allan Dorans

## MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

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### November Newsletter 2022



*Pictured above my House of Commons wreath laid at Wellington Square in memory of those who have lost their lives in service.*

## Foreword

It has been a particularly busy month in Parliament for me, with work within the Privileges Committee ramping up, alongside other Parliamentary/Constituency business.

Unfortunately I cannot include every aspect of my work within this Newsletter, as much of it happens behind the scenes. However, I hope you find it helpful in providing a snippet, or reminder of some of my work.

My next Newsletter, for December, will come out slightly earlier than usual, to account for my office closing over Christmas time.

## Supreme Court Decision

The UK Supreme Court last week ruled that the Scottish Parliament does not have the power to hold an advisory independence referendum without the UK Government's consent.

I am well aware that I represent a constituency which contains within it both pro-independence and pro-union supporters. I also do respect the judgement of the Court.

However, regardless of your political persuasion, this outcome has raised very uncomfortable questions about the basis of the Union. A so-called partnership in which one partner is denied the right to choose a different future - or even to ask itself the question - cannot be described in any way as voluntary or even a partnership at all.

This is about democracy, or in this case, a lack thereof. Yes and No supporters alike can agree, democracy is fundamental and must be upheld.

# Opposition Day Debate: Independence

The SNP Westminster group had a rare opportunity to debate and argue the strengths of Scottish Independence in the House. With independence we will always get the government we vote for. The decisions affecting Scotland must be made by the people of Scotland. Westminster has failed Scotland. It's only a matter of time.



## Manston Asylum Centre

In light of the recent news about the Manston asylum-seekers centre, I asked the Home Secretary to give firm assurances that members of the Prison Office Association and other staff working at Manston, will remain free from personal liability for any illegal decisions made by the Conservative Government around extended detention.

You can watch the response on my Facebook, or website.



## Ayr United FC

My thanks to Ayr United FC for their invitation to attend the Ayr United vs Greenock Morton top of the league clash. Great to learn of the continued success of the Club and their fantastic links and work with the local community. Prior to the game starting the players, officials and fans held a minutes silence in memory of those who have lost their lives in the service of their country.



## Remembrance Service

It was a privilege to attend the Remembrance Day Service, at the Auld Kirk in Ayr, and to be asked to give a Reading from the Bible. Then on to the Service of Remembrance at Wellington Square where I was honoured to lay a wreath in memory of those who have lost their lives in the service of their country. We will remember them.



## Low Trust in UKGov

Recent polls show Scots have little trust in the UK Government to act in their best interests, compared with higher levels of trust in the Scottish Government.

I asked the Minister why he thought trust in the Conservative Government was so low. His response unfortunately did not answer the question - but it can be viewed on my website/social media.

## Police Scotland Successes

I was pleased to recently write an article for The National showing how the positive relationship with the Scottish Government has enabled Police Scotland to have significant success. This suggests there can be even greater achievements in an independent Scotland. You can read the full article on my Facebook page.



## Constituency Surgeries

Every Friday 10am-12noon.  
Telephone or virtual meetings.

Contact my office to make an appointment.



## Visits from Constituents

I was delighted to welcome John and Liz Tate, friends and constituents from Ayr to Westminster. They were able to witness proceedings in the House of Lords, have a tour of the Palace of Westminster and watch Prime Ministers Questions in the House of Commons. Always pleased to get the chance to welcome constituents to Westminster.



## Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment has now increased from £20-£25 per week per child. This means roughly 2,645 families in South Ayrshire, and 4,150 families in East Ayrshire are set to receive a boost to their household incomes from the Scottish Government. Eligible families with children under the age of 16 can also now apply for the Scottish Child Payment. Please do apply if you are eligible.



## SAC Meeting

I was glad to meet with Councillor Martin Dowey, Leader of South Ayrshire Council and Eileen Howat, Chief Executive, to discuss several matters relating to South Ayrshire, this month.

I also met Claire Burden the Chief Executive Officer of NHS Ayrshire and Arran to discuss matters relating to the provision of health services in this area.

## Carers Leave Bill

I recently volunteered to be a Member of the Bill Committee scrutinising and promoting the recently introduced Carers Leave Bill.

This will enshrine in law the right of up to a week's unpaid leave for carers who are in employment. I fully support the Bill which has now passed to the Report Stage in Parliament and is extremely likely to become law.

## PMQs

Following the decision by the UK Supreme Court, I asked the Prime Minister what right his Government have to deny Scottish democracy, refuse an independence referendum and keep us shackled in this unequal union.

He unfortunately failed to answer the question. The full video can be found on my website or social media pages.



## Scottish Secretary of State

That same day, I got the chance to question the Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Jack. Back in 2018 the House voted to acknowledge the Claim of Right - Scotland's people have the right to choose their own destiny.

I asked if the Secretary of State now denies this decision, but predictably, he could not answer the question.



## Privileges Committee

My work within the Privileges Committee is currently demanding more of my time each week, as I and seven other MP's, continue our investigation into whether former Prime Minister Boris Johnson misled the House over the Downing Street parties.

As a former Detective Inspector in the Metropolitan Police, and SNP Shadow Spokesperson for Crime and Policing, I take this role very seriously and do my utmost to give this investigation the time and scrutiny it demands.

